



# January 29<sup>th</sup>



## On this day in...

**2021:** A powerful winter storm and atmospheric river brought heavy rain and snow on 1/28 and on this day. 4-10 inches fell across San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties, 2-6 inches fell in Ventura County and 1-4 inches fell in Los Angeles County. 1.5 inches of rain fell across Santiago Canyon. 1-2 feet of snow was reported in the mountains of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, as were wind gusts reaching 80 mph. Many areas flooded, including Santiago Canyon where mud and debris flows covered roads and damaged homes. A vehicle got stuck in floodwaters in Perris, prompting a water rescue. 8 people were trapped in a flooding storm drain between Otay Mesa and San Ysidro. 7 were helped to safety, but one perished.

**2020:** Strong offshore winds struck the region, with gusts reaching 70 mph. Many trees were downed on homes and cars, and one home caught fire when a tree fell on it.

**2002:** Light snow was reported in the southern Inland Empire during a storm that started on 1/28 and ended on this day.

**1998:** A waterspout moved onshore on Moonlight Beach in Encinitas, becoming an EF1 tornado. Damage to local business and several vehicles was reported, but no injuries.

**1997:** Santa Ana winds blew 100 mph at Fremont Canyon and 87 mph at Rialto. Big rigs were blown over.

**1983:** A series of storms produced surf up to 16 feet from 1/22 to this day. Several piers collapsed. Damage was done to numerous businesses and homes. Several injuries occurred as people were swept off rocks.

**1980:** A powerful storm struck Southern California with flooding rains and

damaging winds. In San Diego County 5.60 inches fell at Lake Henshaw, 5.48 inches at Palomar Mountain, five inches in Ramona, 4.91 inches in Julian, 4.24 inches in Fallbrook, 3.35 inches in Mt. Laguna with no snow, 3.24 inches in Escondido, 2.35 inches in Oceanside, 1.91 inches at Pt. Loma, 1.80 inches in San Diego and 1.37 inches in Borrego Springs. Widespread catastrophic flooding occurred all over the county. Numerous homes, businesses and streets were flooded. Two died in the floods. Wind gusts reached 74 mph unofficially at Lake Murray and 52 mph at San Diego. Coastal areas reported 55 knot (63 mph) winds. At least 15 boats were sunken or severely damaged in Mission Bay and San Diego Bay. A dock was smashed at Mission Bay. At least 86 power outages occurred across the county.

**1979:** A major outbreak of cold air descended on the region. It was a bitter  $-25^{\circ}$  at Big Bear Lake, probably the lowest temperature ever recorded in Southern California. Remarkably, the high was  $28^{\circ}$ , a rise of  $53^{\circ}$  on one winter's day. Campo set an all-time record low when the temperature fell to  $10^{\circ}$ .

**1969:** This day marked the end of 11 consecutive days (the most on record) of measurable precipitation in Palomar Mountain, which started on 1/19.

**1957:** A waterspout was sited off Ocean Beach. Two funnel clouds were observed over North Island (possibly the waterspout) and Mt. Soledad – La Jolla. Heavy snow fell: 24 inches at Mt. Laguna, 21 inches at Palomar Mountain, 20 inches at Lake Cuyamaca, 12 inches at Julian, 10 inches at Mesa Grande, and six inches at Lake Henshaw. The snowstorm stranded 200 people north of LA.

**1922:** The high temperature of  $43^{\circ}$  in LA on this day was the lowest high temperature on record. One-half inch of snow was recorded at the official Greenland Ranch station in Death Valley. It is the only date in the long history (since 1911) that measurable snow has been recorded there.

**1916:** Heavy rain that began on 1/25 and ended on 1/30 exacerbated the flooding earlier in the month. Monthly rainfall totals for January 1916 ranged from 7.56 inches at San Diego to



The Lower Otay Dam broke, causing the deadliest weather related disaster in San Diego County history.

57.91 inches at Dorman's Ranch (in the San Bernardino Mountains, 2,500 feet elev.). Five inches fell in less than 12 hours in San Diego. Extensive flooding occurred all over Southern California, the worst to date and it resulted in 28 total deaths in the region, 22 in San Diego County. **This is the most destructive and deadly weather event in San Diego County History.** The Lower Otay Dam broke sending a 40-foot wall of water downstream, killing 15. A few others drowned in Mission Valley and in the San Luis Rey River. The Sweetwater Dam also broke. Every large bridge in San Diego County but one was seriously damaged or destroyed. Four drowned in Orange County, two in a cottage floating down the Santa Ana River. Two drowned in San Bernardino County. Total damage was nearly \$8 million (1916 dollars).